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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER

GAON=2

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)

09/869610INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.
PCT/IL99/00706INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE
30 December 1999PRIORITY CLAIMED
31 December 1998

TITLE OF INVENTION

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MOBILE WORKERS

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

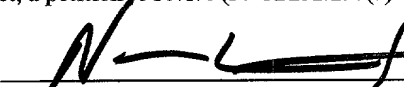
Yair GAON et al.

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)) at any time rather than delay examination until the expiration of the applicable time limit set in 35 U.S.C. 371(b) and PCT Articles 22 and 39(1).
4. ☒ The US has been elected in a Demand by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (PCT Article 31)
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2))
 - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau
 - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☐ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3))
 - a. ☐ are transmitted herewith (required only if not transmitted by the International Bureau).
 - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
 - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
 - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(4))
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(5)).

Items 11. to 16. below concern document(s) or information included:

11. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
 12. ☐ An Assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
 13. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
 14. ☐ A substitute specification.
 15. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter
 16. ☒ Other items or information.
 - ☒ Courtesy copy of the International Application as filed.
 - ☒ Courtesy copy of the first page of the International Publication (WO 00/41104).
 - ☒ Formal drawings, 2 sheets, Figures 1-3.
 - ☒ Courtesy Copy of the International Search Report.
- ☒ The application is (or will be) assigned to: CT MOTION whose address is Hamelacha Street 23, Afeq Industrial Park, 48091 Rosh Ha-Ayin, Israel.

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (If known, see 37 CFR 1.5)		International Application No		Attorney's Docket No	
09/869610		PCT/IL99/00706		GAON=2	
17. [xx] The following fees are submitted: BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a)(1) –(5): Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$1000.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO..... \$860.00 International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO \$710.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$690.00 International preliminary examination fee paid to USPTO (37 CFR 1.482) and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4)..... \$100.00				CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY	
ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =				\$ 860.00	
Surcharge of \$130.00 for furnishing the oath or declaration later than [] 20 [X] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(e)).				\$ 130.00	
Claims as Originally Presented	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	35 - 20		X \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	1 - 3		X \$80.00	\$	
Multiple Dependent Claims (if applicable)			+\$270.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 990.00	
Claims After Post Filing Prel. Amend	Number Filed	Number Extra	Rate		
Total Claims	- 20		X \$18.00	\$	
Independent Claims	- 3		X \$78.00	\$	
TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =				\$ 990.00	
Reduction of ½ for filing by small entity, if applicable. Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.				\$	
SUBTOTAL =				\$ 990.00	
Processing fee of \$130.00 for furnishing the English translation later than [] 20 [] 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492(f))				\$	
TOTAL NATIONAL FEE =				\$ 990.00	
Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31). \$40.00 per property +				\$	
TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED =				\$ 990.00	
				Amount to be: refunded	\$
				charged	\$
a. [] A check in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees is enclosed.					
b. [X] Credit Card Payment Form (PTO-2038), authorizing payment in the amount of \$ 990.00, is attached.					
c. [] Please charge my Deposit Account No. 02-4035 in the amount of \$_____ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
d. [XX] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4035 . A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.					
NOTE: Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.					
SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:					
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.					
624 NINTH STREET, N.W., SUITE 300					
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001					
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Date of this submission: July 2, 2001					
					
				SIGNATURE	
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				NAME	
				19,963	
				REGISTRATION NUMBER	

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)	Art Unit:
Yair GAON et al.)	
)	
IA No.: PCT/IL99/00706)	
)	Washington, D.C.
IA Filed: 30 December 1999)	
)	
U.S. App. No.:)	
(Not Yet Assigned))	July 2, 2001
)	
National Filing Date:)	
(Not Yet Received))	
)	
For: A METHOD AND SYSTEM...)	Docket No.: GAON=2

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Contemporaneous with the filing of this case and
prior to calculation of the filing fee, kindly amend as
follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

After the title please insert the following
paragraph:

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

--The present application is the national stage
under 35 U.S.C. 371 of international application
PCT/IL99/00706, filed 30 December 1999 which designated the
United States, and which international application was
published under PCT Article 21(2) in the English language.--

IN THE CLAIMS

1. A method to facilitating the ability of a service organization engaging mobile workers to find a worker qualified to carry out tasks to be carried out in behalf of a customer of the organization and for then managing the selected mobile worker to increase his productivity the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) searching for a qualified worker located in the vicinity of the customer
- (b) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker; and
- (c) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
- (d) monitoring automatically the worker's location during the current schedule; and
- (e) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule; and
- (f) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation.

21. A method for managing a plurality of mobile worker comprising managing each mobile worker according the method as defined in claim 1 wherein the plurality of current task assignment schedules is using a priority grade for the task assignments and a worker qualification grade for each worker.

22. A distributed system for managing a plurality of mobile worker using the method as defined in claim 1, the system comprising three types of situated apart, interconnected modules:

- (I) at least one client application module for:

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- (a) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker; and
 - (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
 - (d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule; and
 - (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation, or
 - (f) modifying the current task assignment schedule;
- (II) at least one server application module for:
- (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
 - (c) monitoring automatically the worker's location during the current schedule; and
 - (d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule, or
 - (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation; and
- (III) at least one worker application module, wherein each module is associated with a communication unit and wherein there is a predefined transaction format between any pair of modules.

REMARKS

The above amendment to the specification is being made to insert reference to the PCT application of which the present case is a U.S. national stage. The above amendments to the claims are being made in order to eliminate any

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properly multiply dependent claims, for the purpose of reducing the filing fee. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee in this case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

Favorable consideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
BROWDY AND NEIMARK, P.L.L.C.
Attorneys for Applicant

By: 

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

1. A method ~~for managing a mobile worker, to~~ facilitating the ability of a service organization engaging mobile workers to find a worker qualified to carry out tasks to be carried out in behalf of a customer of the organization and for then managing the selected mobile worker to increase his productivity the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) searching for a qualified worker located in the vicinity of the customer
- (b) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker; and
- (c) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
- (d) monitoring automatically the worker's location during the current schedule; and
- (e) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule; and
- (f) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation.

21. A method for managing a plurality of mobile worker comprising managing each mobile worker according the method as defined in ~~any of claims 1-20~~ claim 1 wherein the plurality of current task assignment schedules is using a priority grade for the task assignments and a worker qualification grade for each worker.

22. A distributed system for managing a plurality of mobile worker using the method as defined in ~~any of claims 1-21~~ claim 1, the system comprising three types of situated apart, interconnected modules:

- (I) at least one client application module for:
 - (a) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker; and
 - (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
 - (d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule; and
 - (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation, or
 - (f) modifying the current task assignment schedule;
- (II) at least one server application module for:
 - (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
 - (c) monitoring automatically the worker's

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- location during the current schedule; and
- (d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule, or
- (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation; and
- (III) at least one worker application module, wherein each module is associated with a communication unit and wherein there is a predefined transaction format between any pair of modules.

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A Method and System for Managing Mobile Workers

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to electronic communications and more specifically, a method and system relating to managing mobile workers.

5 REFERENCES

There follows a list of references that is referenced in the following description. The definitions of the terms are given for convenience of explanation and should not be regarded as binding.

1. <http://www.acronymfinder.com/>
- 10 2. <http://www.icq.com/products/whatisicq.html>
3. <http://www.buymarket.com/data999/004819127.shtml>
4. <http://wombat.doc.ic.ac.uk/foldoc/index.html>
5. <http://www.techweb.com/encyclopedia>
6. <http://technet.microsoft.com/cdonline/default-f.asp?target=http://technet.microsoft.com/cdonline/content/complete/windows/win2000/win2ksrv/technote/dise sewp.htm>
- 15

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Today's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Systems, large and small, have many characteristic problems in the managing of mobile workers. More

specifically, mobile workers of all trades have one thing in common, they are hard to manage. Every field service company knows the problem all too well. Once the workers are out the door there is very little control over them. And when new calls for service come in, dispatching attempts are normally
5 sporadic and cumbersome.

As a result, idle time and inefficiency of field service workers have become an acceptable 'evil'. Notwithstanding, by prevailing consensus, it directly affects the organization's operational profit margins, levels of service and customer satisfaction.

10 Field service organizations of all trades lack one thing in common, a standards-based workforce management solution. Over the years different solutions were introduced in the market to cope with the inefficiencies of mobile workforce management. Some were software oriented back office solutions for scheduling and optimization, while others were GPS (Global
15 Positioning System) enabled fleet management solutions. Problem is they were all proprietary solutions by nature, expensive and complicated to implement. Effectively, only the top leading service organizations in each industry had the vision and the means to implement advanced integrated solutions of this kind.

20 Companies and organizations that operate mobile workforces utilize manual or computerized planning programs to schedule their workers' job assignments and time- tables. Current procedures entail in-advance scheduling of job assignments, normally triggered by requests for service or routine maintenance requirements. Usually the work itinerary is provided to
25 the field worker each day for the next day/s and on his return he is expected to report on the results.

Same-day changes to the field worker's itinerary require cumbersome and costly dispatching procedures. The dispatcher needs first to conduct a search for the field worker, confirm his location and job status and then

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converse with him, by telephone or radio communication, before altering his daily itinerary.

Two main problems readily arise from the inability to control and manage dynamically changes in the workflow of their mobile workforces:

- 5 1. Undesired level of service provided to customers, reflecting on the organization's reputation and competitive position.
2. Poor productivity level of field workers, reflecting on the organization's labor overheads and bottom line profitability.

There is a clear need amongst substantially, all service organizations to
10 be able to better control worker's job status and whereabouts. Manual search and verification procedures of a mobile worker's location and job status were proven to be exhaustive to dispatchers and, moreover, foremost ineffective. A centralized, technology based, location and communication system could automate search and verification procedures and enable data-oriented fast and
15 economical dispatching techniques.

Notwithstanding the aforesaid description, there are many existing components that may successfully contribute to a system for managing mobile workers. For example, each of the following US patents teaches a potentially indispensable component for the building of a system for managing mobile
20 workers: 5155689, 5299132, 5388147, 5398190, 5513111, 5519621, 5652707, 5682421, 5799061, 5831519, and 5835061. Furthermore, there are many commercially available components, which may contribute to the building of a system for managing mobile workers. More information about such commercially available components, manufactured by various
25 companies, can be accessed, utilizing the following list of WWW-addresses. It should be noted that the list does not constitutes completeness.

[http://www.signalsoftcorp.com/;](http://www.signalsoftcorp.com/)

<http://www.ericsson.se/SE/epk/mpc/docs/mpsfaq.html;>

<http://www.ericsson.se/Eripress/19981105-0039.html;>

<http://www.trueposition.com/tdoa.htm>;
<http://www.geo.ed.ac.uk/home/giswww.html>;
<http://www.atm.co.il/msl98.htm>; or
<http://www.jya.com/cell-track.htm>.

- 5 Surprisingly, even with essentially all of the indispensable components necessary for the building of a system for managing mobile workers available, and indeed, with the clear need in today's ERP Systems, a facile method for managing mobile workers has not been forthcoming.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

- 10 For convenience of explanation, the term MCS (Mobile Command System) is used in below description.

This invention pertains to organizations that employ mobile workers, wish to improve control over them and increase worker's productivity through dynamic workload allocation and job assignment. The invention
15 assumes that the organization currently employs a computerized customer database and, or work planning, or customer interaction software. In addition, it is assumed that field workers are, or will be equipped with a cellular, or radio, telephone or terminal as a communication means, or the like.

- The system of the preferred embodiment of the present invention is a
20 software-based solution for mobile workforce management. It includes two software-based modules operating under Client / Server architecture.

The first module is the server program, installed at the central office switch of the mobile communication (Radio or Cellular) network operator, or service provider. The second module is the client program, installed at the
25 service organization's office. Both client and server software can be offered as a software suite, to be integrated within existing computerized systems. Alternatively, the software suite can be offered together with hardware to be integrated or interfaced with third party equipment.

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Once these two software modules are in place, one out of many possible scenarios is the following proceeding:

- A service call is received via the telephone, the Internet, or in person.
- 5 ▪ The service agent accesses the "present invention" client program and commands a search for the field workers in a general, or specifically defined geographical area.
- 10 ▪ The "present invention" client program initiates a data query to the "present invention" server program, which in turn triggers a location query to the network operator's system. The operator's system, utilizing base-station location information, identifies the location of designated cellular / radio subscribers in relationship to the base-station they are currently covered by.
- 15 ▪ Once location information is obtained, the "present invention" server transmits the data to the "present invention" client, where a digital map is displayed with the field workers location appearing in the form of icons. Provided integration with organization's information system, each icon can actively display any information related to the field worker's details, schedule, etc.
- 20 ▪ The service agent selects the appropriate field worker to perform the job.
- 25 ▪ The service agent types a data message at the "present invention" client, containing all pertinent job information, and transmits it to "the present invention" server.
- The "present invention" server communicates the data message to the network operator's SMS (Short Message Service) or other data transmission system

- The field worker receives the data message, originated at the service agent "the present invention" client, to his cellular, or radio, telephone / terminal.
- Subject to the prevailing business rules and, or availability of two way data messaging over the network, the field worker can confirm, reject, or comment by sending back a data message to the agent's "the present invention" client, through the "present invention" server.

It is appreciated that the above-described proceedings can equally well be performed automatically with no human (service agent) intervention.

By implementing the "present invention" system several problems are solved:

- A service organization will no longer need to search for his workers through manual, voice communication based, economical dispatching techniques.
- Through the "present invention" client, it can rather control, in real time, the location of multiple field service workers instantaneously, upon request.
- Unlike with other location technologies, i.e. GPS, radio devices, etc. utilization of cellular location techniques, requires no installation of special positioning and communication equipment, thus reducing dramatically the cost and complexity of the solution.
- By enabling two-way data messaging workers can report job status in real time, updating dynamically and automatically corporate information files.
- Circumventing time consuming and expensive voice communications, data communication is fast, precise and cost

effective. (Many cellular operators are currently providing it even free of charge).

The present invention has many advantages over current solutions.

- 5 ▪ Current solutions involve the installation of special (proprietary or dedicated) equipment on the field worker's end, to determine location.
- The "present invention" system utilizes the wireless network to retrieve a subscriber's location, based on the mobile terminal routine signaling, with no extra hardware devices.
- 10 ▪ Current solutions involve manual voice communication dispatch methods. The "the present invention" system offers integrated, location triggered, data messaging methods for fast, economical and efficient dispatching.
- Utilizing a client on the enterprise communication network side
15 and a server on the side of the wireless network's central office switch provides for seamless communication integration, and most reliable data transmission applications.

In the context of the present invention, a mobile worker may be an individual journeyman, a work crew, or a team having individuals, crews,
20 foremen, etc. For example, a plumber may be a mobile worker, an electrician and his assistant may be a mobile worker, a road repair crew may be a mobile worker, or even a single dispatch of fire-fighting equipment, ambulances, police, and crisis management personnel may be a mobile worker.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the
25 present invention relates to a method for managing a mobile worker, the method including the steps of:

- (a) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker; and
- (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and

- (c) monitoring automatically the worker's location during the current schedule; and
- (d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule; and
- (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation.

5 According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the current task assignment schedule is modified and the modification to the current schedule is communicated to the worker. The "current task assignment schedule" is either as defined in step (a) or as herein modified.

10 According to one embodiment of the preferred embodiment, modifying the current task assignment schedule is effected automatically. According to another embodiment of the present embodiment, the modification is negotiated with the worker. Alternatively, both of these embodiments can be combined into another embodiment. In some mobile worker management contexts it may be preferable to give first preference to
15 automatic modification and thereafter to accept schedule change objections from the worker. In other mobile worker management contexts it may be preferable to give first preference to the worker's perspective on accepting modifications to his own schedule.

20 According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the defining (step (a)) is using relational database-like rules. Alternatively, there may be hierarchies of rules which are applied to the defining, such as considering costs, priorities, worker skills, available tools, schedules for delivery of parts, etc. As a method for use with mobile workers, according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention the defining, or modifying
25 of a current task assignment schedule (step (a)) is optimized for minimum travel.

 Furthermore, according to one aspect of the present invention, the modified current task assignment schedule is using a priority grade for the task assignments and therein is optimized for minimum travel. According to

another aspect of the present invention, the modification to current schedule is communicated to the worker.

Thus, the communicating (step (b)), reporting (step (e)) and the communication of modification to current schedule utilize, but are not limited

5 to, *inter alia*:

1. email,
2. facsimile,
3. cellular telephone voice channel,
4. cellular telephone signal channel (Short Message Service),
- 10 5. internet www interactive website,
6. VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol [1]) telephony,
7. IDEN (Integrated Digital Enhanced Network (Motorola variant of TDMA wireless) [1] -type digital radio,
8. posting to a media to which the worker has access, such as *inter alia*:
- 15 (A) a chart pinned to a bulletin board,
- (B) work order authorization or request sent by messenger,
- (C) oral statement,
- (D) presentation at a meeting,
- (E) various internet posting platforms (private or closed chat-,
- 20 usergroups-, ICQ-like-, and based upon ICQ- applications).

(ICQ – "I seek you" – ICQ Inc.: ICQ is an Internet tool that informs who's on-line at any time and enabling contact at will. Mode of communication can be freely chosen, regardless of application, be it chat, voice, message board, data conferencing, file transfer or Internet games, the entire message is

25 transferred in real time [2]).

In addition, the communicating (step (b)) is in digital form. "Digital form," in the context of the present invention, relates to digitized packet containing a part of a task assignment schedule, format information for the schedule, or transactions relating to the schedule. These digitized packets are

transmittable with the highest efficiency over today's electronic communications systems.

Furthermore, the communicating (step (b)) includes transmission of *inter alia*:

- 5 a. voice,
- b. data,
- c. printed material,
- d. graphics,
- e. maps,
- 10 f. codes,
- g. video, or/and
- h. multimedia.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the communication includes a content redundant combination of at least two of the aforesaid. For example, the communication may be a voice instruction describing a modification in the schedule, and the voice instruction is sent with a map and with a text work-order, breaking down the entire new item in the schedule according to task, skills, tools, parts, identification and reference numbers, etc.

20 According to the present invention, the monitoring is accomplished by *inter alia* :

- 1. cellular telephone cell based locating of the worker and the worker maintains a proximate cellular telephone,
- 2. querying the worker and recording the worker's location response, or
- 25 3. querying a GPS monitor and the worker maintains a proximate GPS monitor.

In this context "proximate" may be on the worker, in the worker's toolbox, in the worker's vehicle, or with the worker's team foreman. Similarly, there are many different levels of location precision that may be

required in actual applications. For example, in dispatching a road repair crew, it may be sufficient to know that they are in the cellular telephone cell where the work needs to be done. On a construction site, however, it may be important for management monitoring to know the location of each worker to
5 within a few meters. When high precision location knowledge is important, locating includes the use of triangulation or cell intersection, in the cellular telephone locating context or precise known *per se* triangulation GPS locating, in the GPS locating context.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the
10 monitoring (step (c)) is done periodically, according to anticipated location changes indicated in the current task assignment schedule, randomly, or upon management query. According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the monitoring (step (c)) is done at each occurrence of the worker reporting or transacting with management, or upon the turning on a worker's
15 communications unit, or upon each occurrence of a worker's communications unit entering a new communications cell. In this context, the "communication unit" may be the mobile worker's cellular telephone/pager, two-way radio, or the like.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the
20 correlating (step (d)) discovers location violations from the current task assignment schedule, measures accuracy of the current task assignment schedule, or/and measures the worker's productivity against a current standard of productivity for each assigned task. Furthermore, the selecting (step (e)) is using relational database-like rules.

25 As a method for use with mobile workers, according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention the defining, or modifying of a current task assignment schedule (step (a)) is optimized for minimum travel.

According to the preferred embodiment of the present invention, the correlating (step (d)) is represented on a map. This map may then be of use

to a dispatcher, or to a manager. The map may be stored digitally or may be rendered as a physical document.

Furthermore, the present invention relates to a method for managing a plurality of mobile workers. This method for managing a plurality of workers
5 includes managing each mobile worker according to the method as heretofore defined, wherein the plurality of current task assignment schedules is using a priority grade for the task assignments and a worker qualification grade for each worker.

In addition, the present invention relates to a distributed system for
10 managing a plurality of mobile workers using the method as heretofore defined, the system including three types of situated apart, interconnected modules:

I. at least one client application module for:

- 15 (a) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker,
(b) communicating the current schedule to the worker,
(c) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule,
(d) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation, or
(e) modifying the current task assignment schedule;

II. at least one server application module for:

- 20 (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker,
(c) monitoring automatically the worker's location during the current schedule,
(d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule, or
(e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation; and

25 III. at least one worker application module, wherein each module is associated with a communication unit and wherein there is a predefined transaction format between any pair of modules.

Note that the reference letters, (a) through (e) correspond to steps in the method, and that there is an optional assignment of functions (b), (d) and (e) to either module (I) or (II).

According to the preferred embodiment of the system of the present invention, transactions between the modules include a common GIS (Geographic(al) Information System [1]) location description for the worker and his task assignment. Furthermore, according to the preferred embodiment, location descriptions for the worker and his task assignment are represented graphically on at least one map.

According to the preferred embodiment of the system of the present invention, fulfilling of a customer request for visitation by a task qualified mobile worker includes: the client application recording the visitation location by using customer query response, using a customer registration, or by using a query response of an accessible database; the client application searching for at least one qualified mobile worker who is presently near the visitation location or whose task assignment schedule will locate said at least one qualified mobile worker near the visitation location; and the search is conducted using records of the client application or using a last known location for workers accessible from the server application. Furthermore, according to the preferred embodiment, the client application selects worker for task assignment scheduling to the visitation location.

According to one aspect of the present embodiment, the client application conveys worker-customer direct communication information to either the worker or to the customer. Alternatively, according to another aspect of the present embodiment, the client application negotiates, with the worker or with the customer, adding of the visitation to the workers task assignment schedule. As in the method of the present invention, there are embodiments that allow these aspects to overlap.

According to the preferred embodiment of the system of the present invention, the client application opens a virtual session at the server application, and provides the server application with automatic rule based monitoring and reporting instruction logic.

5 According to the preferred embodiment of the system of the present invention, the client application module or the server application is divided into two interactive portions, one portion located at a processor of a client and the other portion at a server of a network, and a predetermined transaction protocol binding the two portions. According to one aspect of the present
10 embodiment, the portion located at the processor of the client is substantially restricted to simple input and output transactions. According to another aspect of the present embodiment, the portion located at the processor of the client maintains a substantially current download of data from the server application. Likewise, since the system of the present invention may
15 simultaneously relate to clients of different preferences, these aspects may overlap.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In order to understand the invention and to see how it may be carried out in practice, a preferred embodiment will now be described, by way of
20 non-limiting example only, with reference to the accompanying drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 is a schematic diagram showing the main components of the Mobile Command System.

25 **Fig. 2** is a schematic diagram showing the components of the Mobile Command System in more detail.

Fig. 3 is a schematic chart showing the Mobile Command System architecture.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

For convenience of explanation the invention is described below with reference to a preferred embodiment, which constitute a cellular enabled mobile command system for mobile workforce management.

5 Those versed in the art will readily appreciate that the invention is by no means bound to this embodiment and the examples described herein and that a multitude of variations and applications are within the scope of the present invention.

The Mobile Command System was developed to allow intelligent
10 mobile workforce management through standard cellular data communication and information technologies. The system features a unique, rule-based, process (according to the present invention) which provides on-demand real time location information and 2-way SMS messaging. Through this process the system also enables the implementation of automatic event notification
15 from the field based on a user-defined set of enterprise business rules.

The solution is comprised in three main system components, with reference to Fig. 1:

- a network based server 100; and
- a remote client software application 110; and
- 20 a cellular phone/pager 120.

Turning now to fig. 2, server 200 resides at the cellular operator's MSSC (Mobile Services Switching Center) 210 while the client software is installed commonly at the service organization's office. The remote client workstation 220 communicates efficiently with the server 200 via an Internet
25 connection 230.

There follows now a brief discussion describing a possible scenario wherein a preferred embodiment of the present invention is utilized:

1. A customer's call 240 comes in via, commonly a PSTN (Public Switched Telecommunications/Telephone Network [1]) 250.

2. The customer service representative 260 is presented with a map 270 with the customer's location in the center of map 270 by the client software on the remote client workstation 220.
3. Then, remote client workstation 220 queries server 200 for the current
5 location of designated worker/s 290 in the customer's vicinity, utilizing location module 280, part of MSSC 210.
4. Once a qualified worker was selected for the job, a dispatch message via internet-based SMSC (Short Message Service Communicator) 295 appears in seconds directly on his cellular phone.
- 10 5. The worker can reply in return, by a key-stroke, from an assortment of customized messages stored in his cellular phone, or by free alpha-numeric input.
6. Optionally, using his cellular phone, the field worker can also browse his company's Web for additional product or customer information.

15 Cellular operators can now offer new differentiating, value added Business services. Tying in lucrative corporate customers by the core of their business.

In today's cellular business arena competition is primarily marked by discounted rates and marketing packages. Operators are constantly searching
20 for differentiation through value added services. Most, though, provide very similar value added services, such as Voice mail, caller ID, etc.

With the Mobile Command System, cellular operators are able to offer a new line of value added services: application oriented business services. application oriented business services are business services that have
25 significant impact on the very core of a corporate customer's business and help elevate individual productivity and control over its field service operations.

The lucrative markets of service organizations and mobile professionals represent a significant segment in the cellular communication

industry not the least on account of these customers representing by definition 'heavy communication users', utilizing their cellular phones as a "mission critical" business tool. Thus, unlike regular consumers, these customers are less interested in savings

- 5 Aimed at field service organizations of all sizes, the MCS is easy to implement, by virtue of its modular configuration.

The MCS solution involves three elements, all offered to the customer by the cellular operator:

- A.** Cellular phones for the use of mobile workers.
- 10 **B.** Subscription to the operator's MCS location and 2-way messaging services.
- C.** Easy to install, MCS client software, including Geographical Information System (digital map) and a basic mobile workforce management application. Open API (Application Program(ming) [1])
- 15 Interface and JAVA (a general purpose, high-level, object-oriented, cross-platform programming language developed by Sun Microsystems [1]) interfaces are available for seamless integration with Help-desk / Enterprise Management software applications.

- Applicants are confident that the system of the present invention will
- 20 significantly change the field service management paradigm.

Tangible, measurable benefits make the Mobile Command System a significant solution to common and awkward situations:

- A.** With no up-front investments, field service organizations can immediately start exploring the advantages and benefits of real-time
- 25 workforce monitoring and 2-way data messaging services.
- B.** Providing substantially instant monitoring and data communication with mobile workers through basic, standard devices and applications. This significantly contributes to higher efficiency levels of dispatchers and

greater productivity of field workers. Thus achieving more jobs being handled, per worker, per day or, in financial terms, improved profitability.

C. Generating an estimated total monthly cost, per mobile worker, instrumental for obtaining substantive productivity gains.

5 There follows now a brief discussion on the architecture of the present invention with reference to Fig. 3.

The Mobile Command System (MCS) Client/Server architecture consists of two main components: the MCS server 300 and the MCS client 305. The MCS server is connected to the cellular operator LAN (Local
10 Access Network, or Local Area Network [1]). The MCS client is a remote application that communicates with the MCS server via the Internet.

The MCS server is preferably, a multi-tier distributed application, such as e.g. the Windows DNA model (Distributed interNetwork Architecture [1]) of *inter alia*, presentation tier, business logic tier and data tier, which can
15 physically distribute processing over a multitude of computers for scalable, manageable and maintainable server applications. The MCS server runs preferably, on a Microsoft Windows NT (New Technology [1]) server, utilizing an internal database engine, such as the MICROSOFT - BACKOFFICE® SQL SERVER ENTERPRISE ED V7.0 (Clustering model),
20 offered by *inter alia*, CODE Micro Systems, 770 Sycamore Avenue, J-108, Vista, CA 92083, USA [3].

The MCS client is preferably offered in two configurations:

I. iMCS - a thin client, WEB (entanglement or mesh in context with the World Wide Web - WWW, an Internet client-server hypertext distributed
25 information retrieval system which originated from the CERN High-Energy Physics laboratories in Geneva, Switzerland [4]) based HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language [1]) application, providing location information, two-way data messaging and mobile workforce management facilities. Field workers' location is presented on a raster map, retrieved from the server.

II. eMCS - a rich client for the enterprise, containing a vector map engine and communicating with the server via a COM (Component Object Model [1]) interface over HTTP (Hyper Text Transport Protocol [1]).

The Mobile Command System Server 100 (Fig. 1) comprises of the
5 following components:

I. MCS Database

The MCS database server is preferable Microsoft SQL7 (SQL - Structured Query Language [1]).

The database in general holds the following information:

- 10 (i) Service subscribers,
- (ii) Mobile phone information,
- (iii) Location information,
- (iv) Profiles,
- (v) Rules and Actions,
- 15 (vi) Security and Logs.

II. MCS Database Service

The database service role is to act as a database interface i.e. a set of functions that are used to manipulate the fields of each of the database tables by other components on the server.

20 III. SMSC Gateway

The SMSC 295 gateway is the gate used by the SMS Service to send and receive SMS messages. The gateway doesn't contain any business logic but is simply used as communication component to the provider's SMSC, packaging the messages in a defined format prior to transmission and filtering the received messages before transferring them back to the SMS service. The gateway is logically divided into 2 complimentary units (Transmit/Receive), each unit manages an internal message queue. Only the SMS Service can access the SMSC Gateway.

IV. SMS Service

The SMS Service, part of the SMS Module 310, is used by other components in the server to send / receive SMS messages. The SMS Service contains all the logic necessary for dealing with several
5 different message sources and types.

V. Location Gateway

The Location Gateway uses several methods to access location information, which can be combined, if required:

- (i) Cell/Sector based location, obtained by a special STk
10 application,
- (ii) HLR/VLR (Home Location Register/ Visitor Location Register [1]), and
- (iii) Location Servers.

VI. Location Service

15 The Location Service is used by other components in the server to access mobile telephone's location information. Substantially, all location requests are sent via the Location Gateway, part of the Location Module 315.

VII. Billing Service

20 The Billing Service role is to read database log, at predefined times and generate billing data for the cellular operator's Billing Gateway (BGW), part of the Billing Module 320.

VIII. Rule-based Engine

25 The Rule-based Engine, using a dedicated rule-based processor 325, automatically monitors a worker's location and verifies it against current scheduled tasks, enterprise business rules and, or management restrictions. If a rule has been violated, a notification action is being taken according to a predefined set of actions.

IX. Rule-based Service

The Rule-based Service provides an interface to MCS clients in order to set / modify rules. It also provides the necessary services to the Rule-based Engine for executing actions upon rules violations.

X. Request Service

5 The Request Service, part of the Request Handler **330**, acts as a general client interface and therefore offers a wide variety of actions based on user login rights.

After completing the authentication phase each user request is tested against user permissions retrieved from the internal database and
10 transferred to the defined component for execution. An answer to a client request is returned via a special event mechanism.

XI. Supervisor Application

The Supervisor application is used for administrative tasks.

Such tasks may include adding new customers, adding new workers,
15 constructing various reports, setting general rules, server maintenance, etc.

XII. Security

The MCS server services are obtained using a DCOM (Distributed Component Object Model [1]) secured interface over HTTP. Using the
20 HTTP protocol as a carrier enables the server and the client to comply with standard security issues such as using a FIREWALL (a method for keeping a network secure; it can be implemented in a single router that filters out unwanted packets, or it may use a combination of technologies in routers and hosts [5]).

25 The current authentication implementation **335** supports preferably the NTLM (Microsoft Windows NT LAN Manager [1]) protocol and the SSL (Secured Socket Layer – Netscape [1]). With the release of NT5 the KERBEROS protocol will be preferably supported as well.

There follows now a brief clarification of the above mentioned terms
KERBEROS, NTLM, SSL, and STk:

- KERBEROS (authentication system of the Project Athena, developed at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA.). The Kerberos authentication protocol is a mature industry standard that has advantages for Windows network authentication of both client and server and delegation of authorization from clients to servers through the use of proxy mechanisms. The Kerberos Version 5 authentication protocol replaces NTLM as the primary security protocol for access to resources within or across Windows 2000 domains. Some of the benefits of Kerberos protocol are mutual authentication of both client and server, reduced server load during connection establishment, and support for delegation of authorization from clients to servers through the use of proxy mechanisms [6]. It is based on symmetric key cryptography. Adopted by OSF as the basis of security for DME. OSF (Open Software Foundation) is a foundation created by nine computer vendors, (Apollo, DEC, Hewlett-Packard, IBM, Bull, Nixdorf, Philips, Siemens and Hitachi) to promote "Open Computing" [4].
- The NTLM authentication protocol is the password-based authentication protocol for Microsoft Windows based networking. Microsoft® Windows NT® Server offers superior security services for account management and enterprise-wide network authentication. Windows NT LAN Manager (NTLM) authentication protocol is used by Windows NT 4.0 and previous versions of Windows NT. [6].
- The Secured Socket layer (SSL) 340 (Fig. 3) is the de facto standard today for connections between Internet browsers and Internet Information Servers. An IETF (Internet Engineering Task Force [1]) standard protocol definition based on SSL3 is forthcoming and is currently known as the

Transport Layer Security Protocol (TLS). This protocol makes use of public-key certificates to mutually authenticated clients and servers.

- STk (scheme interpreter for Tk) expresses all of Tk as Scheme objects.

5 Tk is a GUI library, generally used with TCL, but also available from within C or Perl. Tk is available for X Window System, Microsoft Windows and Macintosh. TCL (Tool Command Language), is an interpreted string processing language for issuing commands to interactive programs, developed by John Ousterhout at the University of California at Berkeley, CA, USA [4].

10

The present invention has been described with certain degree of particularity. Those versed in the art will readily appreciate that various modifications and alterations may be carried out without departing from the scope of the following claims:

15

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CLAIMS:

1. A method for managing a mobile worker, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker; and
 - (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
 - (c) monitoring automatically the worker's location during the current schedule; and
 - (d) correlating the monitored location with the current schedule; and
 - (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation.
2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the current task assignment schedule is modified and the modification to the current schedule is communicated to the worker.
3. The method according to claim 2 wherein modifying the current task assignment schedule is effected automatically.
4. The method according to claim 2 wherein the modification is negotiated with the worker.
5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the defining is using relational database-like rules.
6. The method according to claim 1 wherein the communication is by email, facsimile, cellular telephone voice channel, cellular telephone signal channel (SMS), internet, VOIP telephony, IDEN-type digital radio, or by posting to a worker accessible media.
7. The method according to claim 1 wherein the communicating is in digital form.
8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the communicating includes transmission of voice, data, facsimile, graphics, map,

3 codes, a compressed representation of any of the aforesaid, any
4 combination of the aforesaid, or a content redundant combination
5 of at least two of the aforesaid.

1 9. The method according to claim 1 wherein the monitoring is by
2 cellular telephone cell based locating of the worker and the
3 worker maintains a proximate cellular telephone, by querying the
4 worker and recording the worker's location response, or by GPS
5 locating of the worker and the worker maintains a proximate
6 GPS monitor.

1 10. The method according to claim 9 wherein locating includes
2 triangulation or cell intersection.

1 11. The method according to claim 1 wherein the monitoring is done
2 periodically, according to anticipated location changes indicated
3 in the current task assignment schedule, randomly, or upon
4 management query.

1 12. The method according to claim 1 wherein the monitoring is done
2 at each occurrence of the worker reporting or transacting with
3 management, or upon the turning on a worker's communications
4 unit, or upon each occurrence of a worker's communications unit
5 entering a new communications cell.

1 13. The method according to claim 1 wherein the correlating
2 discovers location violations from the current task assignment
3 schedule, measures accuracy of the current task assignment
4 schedule, or measures the worker's productivity against a current
5 standard of productivity for each assigned task.

1 14. The method according to claim 1 wherein the selecting is using
2 relational database-like rules.

1 15. The method according to claim 1 wherein the reporting is by:
2 email, facsimile, cellular telephone voice channel, cellular

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3 telephone signal channel (SMS), internet, VOIP telephony,
4 IDEN-type digital radio, or by posting to a worker accessible
5 media.

1 16. The method according to claim 1 wherein the defining of a
2 current task assignment schedule is optimized for minimum
3 travel.

1 17. The method according to claim 2 wherein the modified current
2 task assignment schedule is optimized for minimum travel.

1 18. The method according to claim 2 wherein the modified current
2 task assignment schedule is using a priority grade for the task
3 assignments and therein is optimized for minimum travel.

1 19. The method according to claim 2 wherein the modification to
2 current schedule is communicated to the worker using: email,
3 facsimile, a cellular telephone voice channel, a cellular telephone
4 signal channel (SMS), internet, VOIP telephony, IDEN-type
5 digital radio, or by posting to a worker accessible media.

1 20. The method according to claim 1 wherein the correlating is
2 represented on a map.

1 21. A method for managing a plurality of mobile workers comprising
2 managing each mobile worker according to the method as
3 defined in any of claims 1-20 wherein the plurality of current
4 task assignment schedules is using a priority grade for the task
5 assignments and a worker qualification grade for each worker.

1 22. A distributed system for managing a plurality of mobile workers
2 using the method as defined in any of claims 1-21, the system
3 comprising three types of situated apart, interconnected modules:

4 (I) at least one client application module for:

5 (a) defining a current task assignment schedule to a worker;

6 and

- 7 (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
8 (d) correlating the monitored location with the current
9 schedule; and
10 (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation, or
11 (f) modifying the current task assignment schedule;
- 12 (II) at least one server application module for:
13 (b) communicating the current schedule to the worker; and
14 (c) monitoring automatically the worker's location during
15 the current schedule; and
16 (d) correlating the monitored location with the current
17 schedule, or
18 (e) selecting and reporting aspects of the correlation; and
19 (III) at least one worker application module, wherein each
20 module is associated with a communication unit and
21 wherein there is a predefined transaction format between
22 any pair of modules.
- 1 23. The system according to claim 22 wherein transactions between
2 the modules include a common Geographical Information
3 System (GIS) location description for the worker and his task
4 assignment.
- 1 24. The system according to claim 23 wherein location descriptions
2 for the worker and his task assignment are represented
3 graphically on at least one map.
- 1 25. The system according to claim 22 wherein fulfilling of a
2 customer request for visitation by a task qualified mobile worker
3 includes: the client application recording the visitation location
4 by using customer query response, using a customer registration,
5 or by using a query response of an accessible database; the client
6 application searching for at least one qualified mobile worker

7 who is presently near the visitation location or whose task
8 assignment schedule will locate said at least one qualified mobile
9 worker near the visitation location; and the search is conducted
10 using records of the client application or using a last known
11 location for workers accessible from the server application.

1 **26.** The system according to claim **25** wherein the client application
2 selects worker for task assignment scheduling to the visitation
3 location.

1 27. The system according to claim 26 wherein the client application
2 conveys worker-customer directs communication information to
3 either the worker or the customer.

1 **28.** The system according to claim **26** wherein the client application
2 negotiates, with the worker or with the customer, adding of the
3 visitation to the workers task assignment schedule.

1 **29.** The system according to claim **22** wherein the client application
2 opens a virtual session at the server application, and provides the
3 server application with automatic rule based monitoring and
4 reporting instruction logic.

1 **30.** The system according to claim 22 wherein the client application
2 module or the server application is divided into two interactive
3 portions, one portion located at a processor of a client and the
4 other portion at a server of a network, and a predetermined
5 transaction protocol binding the two portions.

1 **31.** The system according to claim **30** wherein the portion located at
2 the processor of the client is substantially restricted to simple
3 input and output transactions.

1 **32.** The system according to claim **30** wherein the portion located at
2 the processor of the client maintains a substantially current
3 download of data from the server application.

- 1 **33.** For use in the system of Claim **22**, a client application module.
- 1 **34.** For use in the system of Claim **22**, a server application module.
- 1 **35.** For use in the system of Claim **22**, a worker application module.

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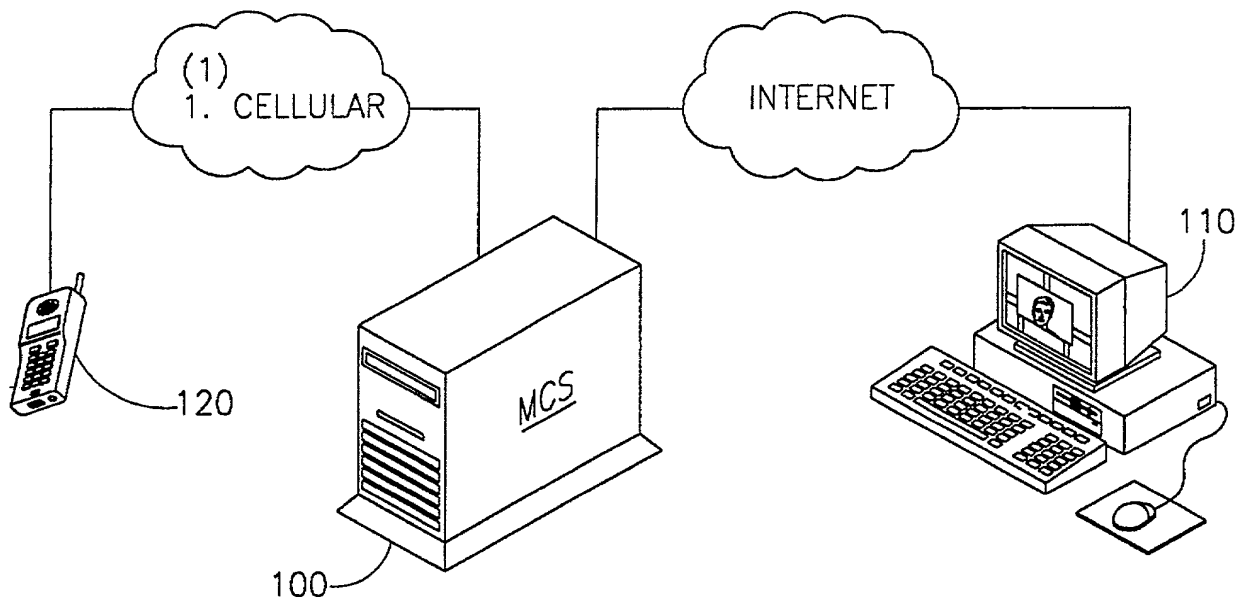


FIG.1

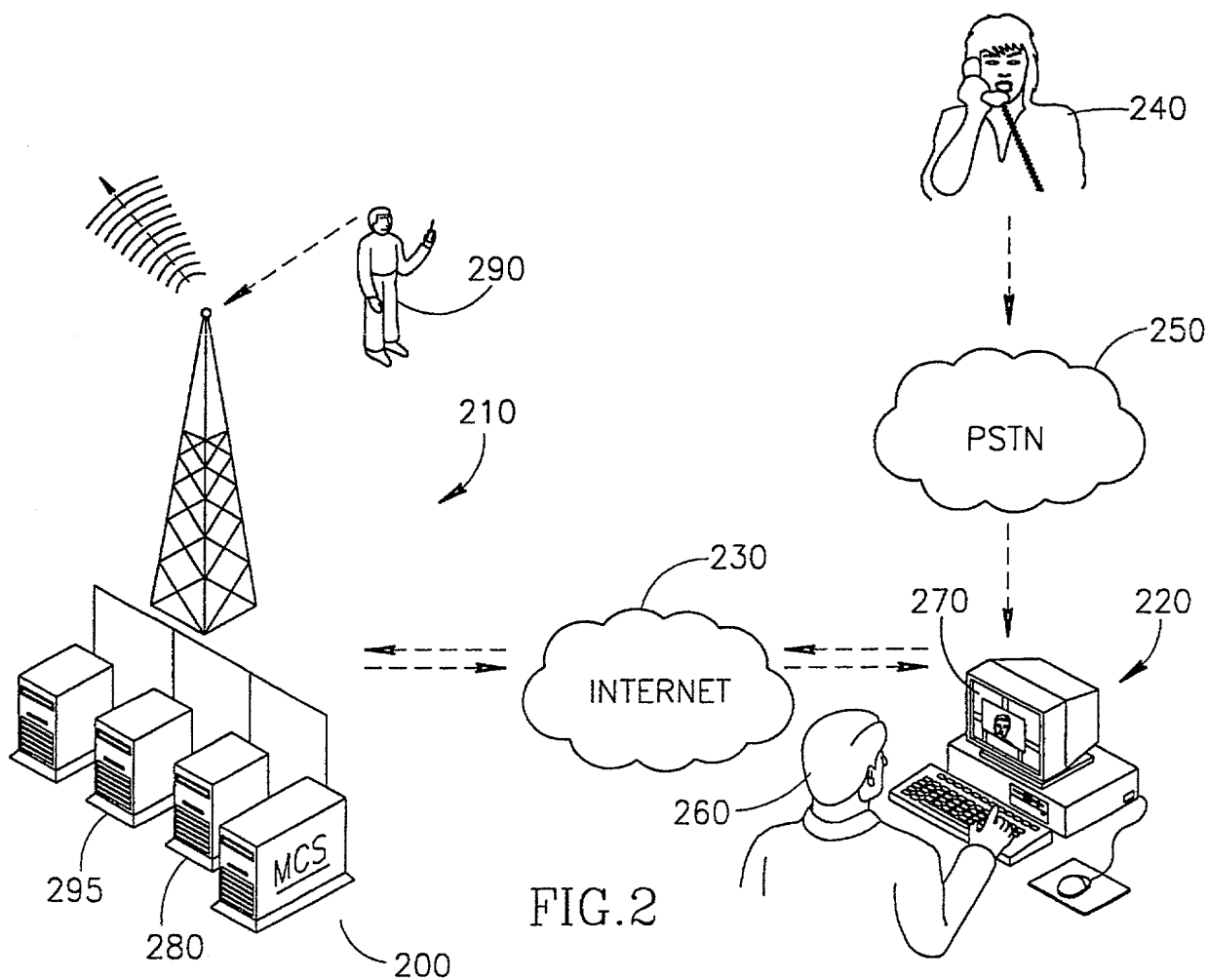


FIG.2

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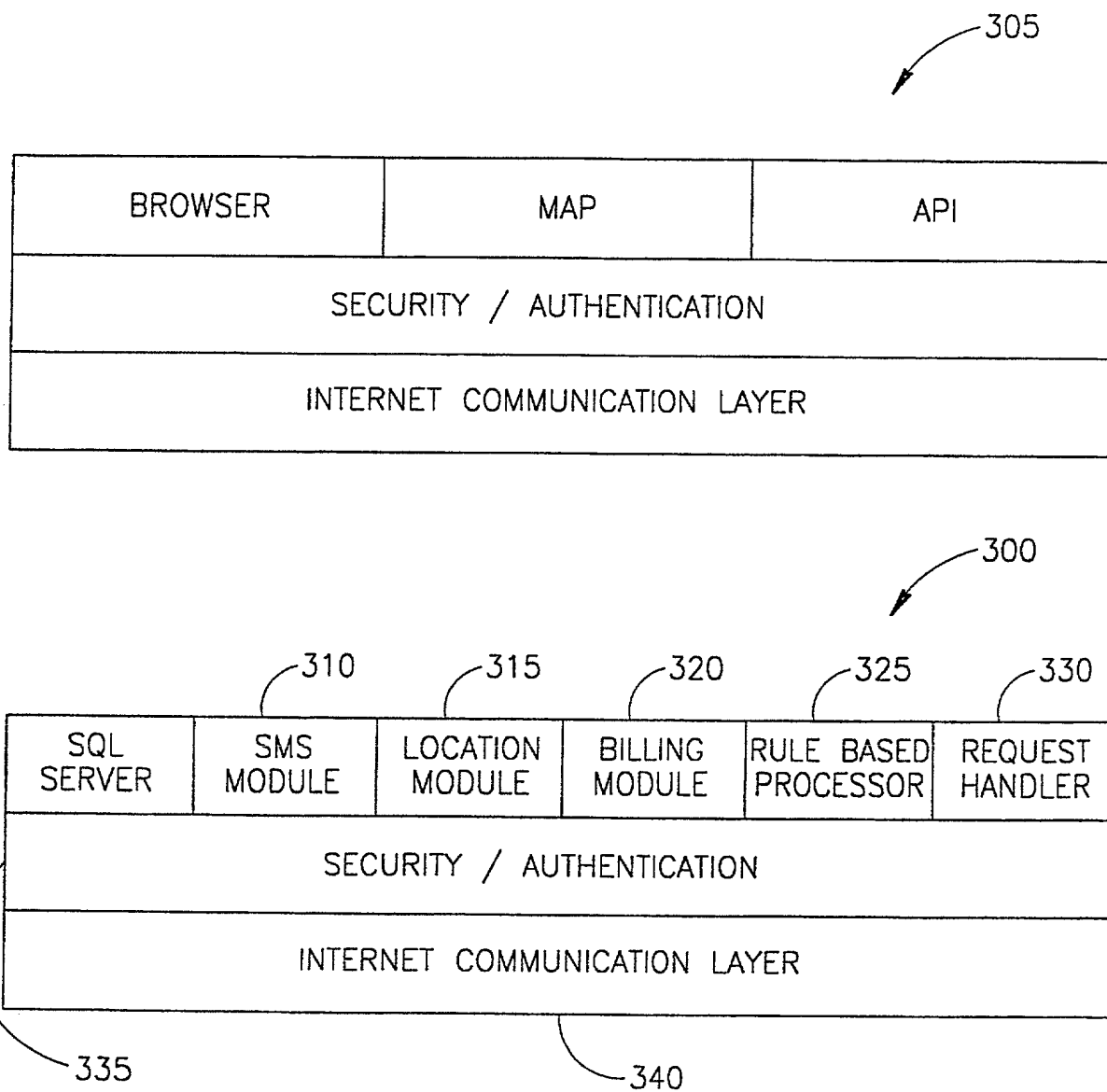


FIG. 3

Combined Declaration for Patent Application and Power of Attorney

As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name; and that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MOBILE WORKERS

the specification of which (check one)

- ☐ is attached hereto;
☐ was filed in the United States under 35 U.S.C. §111 on, as
 U.S. Appl. No. _____, or
☒ will filed in the U.S. under 35 U.S.C. §371 by entry into the U.S. national stage of an international (PCT)
 application, PCT/IL99/00706; filed 30 December 1999, entry requested on July 2, 2001^o; national stage
 application received U.S. Appl. No. _____^o; §371/§102(c) date _____^o (" if
 known)

and was amended on July 2, 2001 (if applicable).

(Include date of amendment under PCT Art. 19 and 34 (PCT))

I have reviewed and understood the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above; and I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) all information known by me to be material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 (a)-(d) and 365 (b) of any prior foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or under §365(a) of any PCT application which designated at least one country other than the U.S., listed below:

Application No.	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
_____	_____	_____

If I claimed foreign priority above, I hereby identify below any foreign application for patent (including an international (PCT) application) designating a country other than the United States) or §365(a) inventor's or plant breeder's certificate, having a filing date before that of the earliest application from which foreign priority is claimed (if left blank, then there are none):

Non-Priority Application No.	Country	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
_____	_____	_____

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) of any United States provisional applications listed below:

Application No.	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)
60/114,587	December 31, 1998

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. §120 of any prior U.S. non-provisional application(s) or under §365(c) of any prior PCT international application(s) designating the U.S., listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in such U.S. or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the PTO all information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56 which becomes available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

Application No.	Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Status (examined, pending, abandoned)
_____	_____	_____

As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following registered practitioner to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

All of the practitioners associated with Customer Number 001444

Direct all correspondence to the address associated with Customer Number 001444, which is presently:

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 (402) 528-5197

Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MANAGING MOBILE WORKERSU.S. Application filed July 1, 2001, Serial No. _____PCT Application filed PCT/IL 99/00706, Serial No. _____

The undersigned hereby authorizes the U.S. Attorneys or Agents appointed herein to accept and follow instructions from Reinhold Gohn & Partners as to any action to be taken in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office regarding this application without direct communication between the U.S. Attorneys or Agents and the undersigned. In the event of a change of the persons from whom instructions may be taken, the U.S. Attorneys or Agents appointed herein will be so notified by the undersigned.

I hereby further declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. §1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

FULL NAME OF FIRST INVENTOR Yair GAON		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 7-8-3-02
RESIDENCE Oranit, Israel		CITIZENSHIP ISRAELI	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS Haska Street 21, 44813 Oranit			
FULL NAME OF SECOND JOINT INVENTOR Rafi KATZ		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE 7-11-3-02
RESIDENCE Holon, Israel		CITIZENSHIP Israeli	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS Moshe Sharet Street 22, 58489 Holon, Israel			
FULL NAME OF THIRD JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FOURTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF FIFTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			
FULL NAME OF SIXTH JOINT INVENTOR		INVENTOR'S SIGNATURE	DATE
RESIDENCE		CITIZENSHIP	
POST OFFICE ADDRESS			

ALL INVENTORS MUST REVIEW APPLICATION (AND DECLARATION) BEFORE SIGNING. ALL ALTERATIONS MUST BE INITIALED AND DATED BY ALL INVENTORS PRIOR TO EXECUTION. NO ALTERATIONS CAN BE MADE AFTER THE DECLARATION IS SIGNED. ALL PAGES OF DECLARATION MUST BE SIGNED BY ALL INVENTORS.